



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 158

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 236

Senate, March 28, 2024

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through SEN. MARX of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A FEE WAIVER AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10a-77 of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

4 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition at any of
5 the regional community-technical colleges (1) for any dependent child
6 of a person whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to
7 be missing in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in
8 such armed forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted
9 for admission to such institution and is a resident of the state at the time
10 such child is accepted for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the
11 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in
12 section 27-103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in
13 section 27-103, except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in

14 time of war" shall not include time spent in attendance at a military
15 service academy, which veteran has been accepted for admission to such
16 institution and is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is
17 accepted for admission to such institution. Said board of trustees shall
18 also waive for any such veteran the payment of any extension fees under
19 section 10a-26 for educational extension programs and summer school
20 sessions, (3) for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older,
21 provided, at the end of the regular registration period, there are enrolled
22 in the course a sufficient number of students other than those residents
23 eligible for waivers pursuant to this subdivision to offer the course in
24 which such resident intends to enroll and there is space available in such
25 course after accommodating all such students, (4) for any student
26 attending the Connecticut State Police Academy who is enrolled in a law
27 enforcement program at said academy offered in coordination with a
28 regional community-technical college which accredits courses taken in
29 such program, (5) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or
30 Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General
31 or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of
32 the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to such
33 institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate degree-
34 granting program. Said board of trustees shall also waive for any such
35 member the payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26 for
36 educational extension programs and summer school sessions, (6) for any
37 dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or
38 supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in
39 section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal
40 employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in
41 the line of duty, (7) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child
42 or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of
43 this state, (8) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was
44 killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and
45 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of
46 the state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who
47 was killed in action while performing active military duty with the
48 armed forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and

49 who was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition
50 waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
51 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
52 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
53 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this
54 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
55 tuition waivers in registering for courses at regional community-
56 technical colleges. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as
57 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for
58 less than one year.

59 (e) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (d) of this section has
60 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans
61 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the
62 payment of tuition and extension fees at any of the regional community-
63 technical colleges for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (2) of
64 this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said board of trustees that
65 such veteran's application for such federal educational assistance has
66 been denied or withdrawn, said board of trustees shall waive the
67 payment of tuition and extension fees in accordance with subsection (d)
68 of this section.

69 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
70 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
71 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to a regional
72 community-technical college on behalf of a veteran that represents
73 payment for tuition and extension fees. Such portion shall be calculated
74 by multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal educational
75 assistance to be paid to a regional community-technical college on
76 behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing (I) the sum
77 of the actual tuition and extension fees charged by such college to such
78 veteran by (II) the sum of the actual tuition, extension fees and other fees
79 charged by such college to such veteran.

80 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and
81 extension fees in excess of the veteran tuition benefit at any of the

82 regional community-technical colleges for such veteran.

83 (f) Said board of trustees shall set aside from its anticipated regional
84 community-technical college tuition revenue, an amount not less than
85 that required by said board's tuition policy. Such funds shall be used to
86 provide tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational
87 expenses and student employment for residents enrolled in regional
88 community-technical colleges as full or part-time matriculated students
89 in a degree-granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial
90 program, who demonstrate substantial financial need. Said board of
91 trustees may also set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an
92 additional amount equal to one per cent of [said] such tuition revenue
93 for financial assistance for students who would not otherwise be eligible
94 for financial assistance but who do have a financial need as determined
95 by the college in accordance with this subsection. In determining such
96 financial need, the college shall exclude the value of equity in the
97 principal residence of the student's parents or legal guardians, or in the
98 student's principal residence if the student is not considered to be a
99 dependent of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings
100 of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent.

101 (g) The Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating Fund
102 shall be reimbursed for the amount by which the tuition and extension
103 fee waivers granted under subsection (d) of this section exceed five per
104 cent of tuition and extension fee revenue through an annual state
105 appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an appropriation
106 and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an estimate of tuition
107 and extension fee revenue loss using tuition and extension fee rates in
108 effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will apply.

109 Sec. 2. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10a-99 of the 2024
110 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
111 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

112 (d) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
113 undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the Connecticut State
114 University System (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the

115 armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or
116 to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after
117 January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to such
118 institution and is a resident of the state at the time such child is accepted
119 for admission to such institution, (2) subject to the provisions of
120 subsection (e) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
121 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
122 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
123 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
124 which veteran has been accepted for admission to such institution and
125 is domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for
126 admission to such institution. Said board of trustees shall also waive for
127 any such veteran the payment of any extension fees under section 10a-
128 26 for educational extension programs and summer school sessions, (3)
129 for any resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been
130 accepted for admission to such institution, provided (A) such resident
131 is enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular
132 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
133 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
134 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
135 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
136 all such students, (4) for any student attending the Connecticut Police
137 Academy who is enrolled in a law enforcement program at said
138 academy offered in coordination with the university which accredits
139 courses taken in such program, (5) for any active member of the
140 Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by
141 the Adjutant General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member
142 in good standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for
143 admission to such institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an
144 undergraduate or graduate degree-granting program. Said board of
145 trustees shall also waive for any such member the payment of any
146 extension fees under section 10a-26 for educational extension programs
147 and summer school sessions, (6) for any dependent child of a (A) police
148 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary
149 police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of

150 a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state
151 employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (7) for
152 any resident of this state who is a dependent child or surviving spouse
153 of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state, (8) for any
154 dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in a
155 multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and
156 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (9) for any resident of the state
157 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was
158 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed
159 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who was
160 a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver in
161 accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives
162 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
163 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
164 and members of the National Guard described in subdivision (5) of this
165 subsection shall be given the same status as students not receiving
166 tuition waivers in registering for courses at Connecticut state
167 universities. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used
168 in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less
169 than one year.

170 (e) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (d) of this section has
171 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans
172 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the
173 payment of tuition and extension fees at the Connecticut State
174 University System for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (2)
175 of this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said board of trustees
176 that such veteran's application for such federal educational assistance
177 has been denied or withdrawn, said board of trustees shall waive the
178 payment of tuition and extension fees in accordance with subsection (d)
179 of this section.

180 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
181 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
182 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to the
183 Connecticut State University System on behalf of a veteran that

184 represents payment for tuition and extension fees. Such portion shall be
185 calculated by multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal
186 educational assistance to be paid to the Connecticut State University
187 System on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing
188 (I) the sum of the actual tuition and extension fees charged by the
189 Connecticut State University System to such veteran by (II) the sum of
190 the actual tuition, extension fees and other fees charged by the
191 Connecticut State University System to such veteran.

192 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and
193 extension fees in excess of the veteran tuition benefit at the Connecticut
194 State University System for such veteran.

195 (f) Said board of trustees shall set aside from its anticipated tuition
196 revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of
197 governors' tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection
198 (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers,
199 tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student
200 employment for any undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled
201 as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-granting
202 program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and who
203 demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board of trustees may also
204 set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount
205 equal to one per cent of [said] such tuition revenue for financial
206 assistance for students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial
207 assistance but who do have a financial need as determined by the
208 university in accordance with this subsection. In determining such
209 financial need, the university shall exclude the value of equity in the
210 principal residence of the student's parents or legal guardians, or in the
211 student's principal residence if the student is not considered to be a
212 dependent of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings
213 of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent.

214 (g) The Connecticut State University System Operating Fund shall be
215 reimbursed for the amount by which the tuition and extension fee
216 waivers granted under subsection (d) of this section exceed two and

217 one-half per cent of tuition and extension fee revenue through an annual
218 state appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an
219 appropriation and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an
220 estimate of tuition and extension fee revenue loss using tuition and
221 extension fee rates in effect for the fiscal year in which such
222 appropriation will apply.

223 Sec. 3. Subsections (e) to (h), inclusive, of section 10a-105 of the 2024
224 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
225 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

226 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees for
227 any undergraduate or graduate degree program at The University of
228 Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person whom the armed
229 forces of the United States has declared to be missing in action or to have
230 been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed forces after January
231 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for admission to The University
232 of Connecticut and is a resident of the state at the time such child is
233 accepted for admission to said institution, (2) subject to the provisions
234 of subsection (f) of this section, for any veteran, as defined in section 27-
235 103, who performed service in time of war, as defined in section 27-103,
236 except that for purposes of this subsection, "service in time of war" shall
237 not include time spent in attendance at a military service academy,
238 which veteran has been accepted for admission to said institution and is
239 domiciled in this state at the time such veteran is accepted for admission
240 to said institution. Said board of trustees shall also waive for any such
241 veteran the payment of any extension fees under section 10a-26 for
242 educational extension programs and summer school sessions, (3) for any
243 resident of the state sixty-two years of age or older who has been
244 accepted for admission to said institution, provided (A) such resident is
245 enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular
246 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number
247 of students other than those residents eligible for waivers pursuant to
248 this subdivision to offer the course in which such resident intends to
249 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating
250 all such students, (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or

251 Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant General
252 or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of
253 the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to said
254 institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or
255 graduate degree-granting program. Said board of trustees shall also
256 waive for any such member the payment of any extension fees under
257 section 10a-26 for educational extension programs and summer school
258 sessions, (5) for any dependent child of a (A) police officer, as defined in
259 section 7-294a, or supernumerary or auxiliary police officer, (B)
260 firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or member of a volunteer fire
261 company, (C) municipal employee, or (D) state employee, as defined in
262 section 5-154, killed in the line of duty, (6) for any resident of the state
263 who is the dependent child or surviving spouse of a specified terrorist
264 victim who was a resident of the state, (7) for any dependent child of a
265 resident of the state who was killed in a multivehicle crash at or near the
266 intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005,
267 and (8) for any resident of the state who is a dependent child or
268 surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing
269 active military duty with the armed forces of the United States on or
270 after September 11, 2001, and who was a resident of this state. If any
271 person who receives a tuition waiver in accordance with the provisions
272 of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement from an
273 employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
274 educational reimbursement. Veterans and members of the National
275 Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be given the
276 same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in registering for
277 courses at The University of Connecticut. Notwithstanding the
278 provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in
279 this state" includes domicile for less than one year.

280 (f) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (e) of this section has
281 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Veterans
282 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall waive the
283 payment of tuition and extension fees at The University of Connecticut
284 for such veteran in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection. If
285 any such veteran certifies to said board of trustees that such veteran's

286 application for such federal educational assistance has been denied or
287 withdrawn, said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition
288 and extension fees in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

289 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"
290 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
291 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to The
292 University of Connecticut on behalf of a veteran that represents
293 payment for tuition and extension fees. Such portion shall be calculated
294 by multiplying (i) the total amount of such federal educational
295 assistance to be paid to The University of Connecticut on behalf of such
296 veteran by (ii) an amount obtained by dividing (I) the sum of the actual
297 tuition and extension fees charged by The University of Connecticut to
298 such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual tuition, extension fees and
299 other fees charged by The University of Connecticut to such veteran.

300 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition and
301 extension fees in excess of the veteran tuition benefit at The University
302 of Connecticut for such veteran.

303 (g) Said board of trustees shall set aside from its anticipated tuition
304 revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of
305 governors' tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection
306 (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers,
307 tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student
308 employment for any undergraduate, graduate or professional student
309 who is enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-
310 granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and
311 who demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board of trustees may
312 also set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount
313 equal to one per cent of [said] such tuition revenue for financial
314 assistance for students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial
315 assistance but who do have a financial need as determined by the
316 university in accordance with this subsection. In determining such
317 financial need, the university shall exclude the value of equity in the
318 principal residence of the student's parents or legal guardians, or in the

319 student's principal residence if the student is not considered to be a
320 dependent of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings
321 of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent.

322 (h) The University of Connecticut Operating Fund shall be
323 reimbursed for the amount by which tuition and extension fee waivers
324 granted under subsection (e) of this section exceed two and one-half per
325 cent of tuition and extension fee revenue through an annual state
326 appropriation. The board of trustees shall request such an appropriation
327 and [said] such appropriation shall be based upon an estimate of tuition
328 and extension fee revenue loss using tuition and extension fee rates in
329 effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will apply.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10a-77(d) to (g)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10a-99(d) to (g)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10a-105(e) to (h)

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
CSCU	Tuition Fund - Revenue Loss	Potential Significant	Potential Significant
UConn	Tuition Fund - Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a revenue loss to the constituent units of higher education beginning in FY 25 as a result of expanding the higher education tuition waiver program to cover certain extension fees and summer school, for eligible veterans and active Connecticut National Guard members. The revenue loss would be dependent upon the number of veterans who took advantage of the additional fee waivers and the amount of the additional fees waived.

It is anticipated that there are approximately 1,650 eligible students (1,220 veterans and 430 National Guard members) within the Connecticut State University System and CT State Community College who could take advantage of the additional waivers. Both extension and summer school fees vary by institution and number of credit hours. For example, the average community college three credit hour extension fee is \$903 annually. The cost of summer school courses at Central Connecticut State University averages approximately \$600 per credit. If each eligible student at CSCU were to take one three credit course, the waived fees would total approximately \$2.4 million.

The overall scope of the revenue loss to the tuition funds at CSCU is unknown and may be significant. The impact would vary by the number of eligible veterans taking advantage of the additional waivers, and the total amount of fees waived.

The bill results in a minimal revenue loss annually beginning in FY 25 to UConn. There are currently no veterans attending UConn extension programs. To the extent that any veterans begin attending, there is a minimal revenue loss to UConn. The bill's provision waiving summer course fees has no fiscal impact to UConn as the university already provides such a waiver.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of waiver recipients and extension and summer school fee increases.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 236*****AN ACT CONCERNING A FEE WAIVER AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the higher education tuition waiver program to cover certain extension fees for eligible National Guard members and veterans with wartime service (see BACKGROUND). It requires the regional community-technical colleges, Connecticut State University System (CSUS), and UConn to waive these fees for educational extension programs and summer school sessions. Current law requires these institutions to waive eligible veterans' and National Guard members' tuition, which does not include fees charged for extension programs and summer school sessions (CGS § 10a-26(c)).

The bill makes various conforming changes, including incorporating these extension fee waivers into the calculation of waiver amounts that the state must annually reimburse to these institutions' operating funds through an appropriation. Under current law, the reimbursement amount is based only on tuition waivers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND***Veterans' Service in Time of War***

By law, to be eligible for state benefits (including tuition waivers) that require service in a time of war, a veteran must generally have served at least 90 cumulative days during a statutorily defined period of war, which are described in the table below. A veteran who served fewer days may qualify if he or she (1) was separated from service earlier

because of either a service-connected U.S. Veterans' Administration-rated disability or an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or (2) served for the duration of a period of war that lasted fewer than 90 days (CGS § 27-103(a)(3)).

The table below shows post-1940 periods of war and service conditions for purposes of veterans' benefits (CGS § 27-103(a)(4)).

Table: Post-1940 "Periods of War"

Operation	Covered Period	Service Condition
World War II	12/7/41—12/31/46*	Active service during the covered period
Korean conflict	6/27/50—1/31/55	Active service during the covered period
Lebanon conflict	7/1/58—11/1/58 or 9/29/82—3/30/84	Combat or combat-support role in Lebanon during the covered periods
Vietnam era	2/28/61—7/1/75	Active service during the covered period
Grenada invasion	10/25/83—12/15/83	Combat or combat-support role in Grenada during the covered period
Operation Earnest Will (escort of Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flag in the Persian Gulf)	7/24/87—8/1/90	Combat or combat-support role in the operation during the covered period
Panama invasion	12/20/89—1/31/90	Combat or combat-support role in the invasion during the covered period
Persian Gulf War	8/2/90 until a date prescribed by the President or law	Active service during the covered period
Afghanistan	10/24/01—8/30/21	Active service during the covered period
Iraq	3/19/03—12/31/11 or 6/1/14—12/9/21	Active service during the covered period

*except, for certain property tax exemptions, the end date is considered 12/31/47 (CGS § 12-86)

Related Bill

SB 348, reported favorably by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, eliminates service in time of war as an eligibility requirement for, among other things, veterans' tuition waivers.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)